



Flirting and Good Night Kisses

Beginning and Endings in Writing



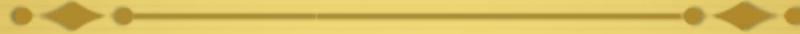
How is Writing Like Fishing and Flirting?

If a fisherman wants to capture a fish, he dangles bait from a hook to catch it's attention.

If a boy or girl wants to capture the affection of someone else, he or she... dresses a certain way, gives a certain look, asks a question, looks directly into the other's eyes, smiles, winks, nods, teases, leans in... etc.

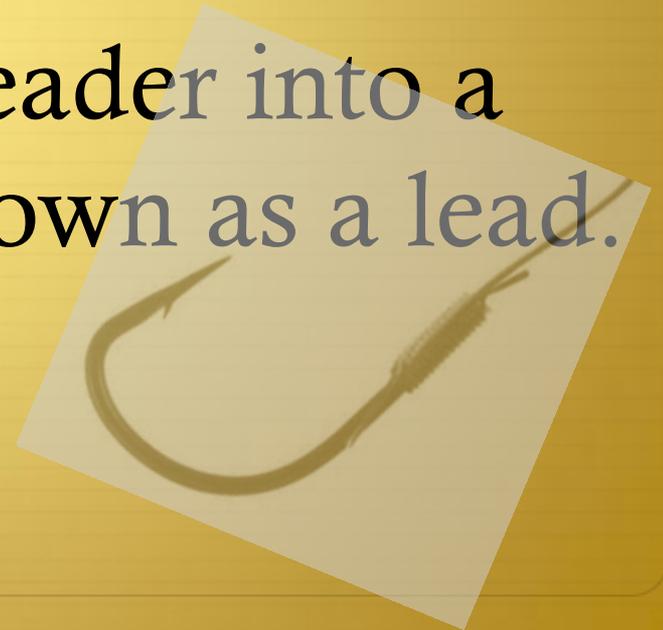
If a writer wants to capture the attention of a reader, he or she begins his or her writing with something flashy or exciting to lure the reader in and make him or her want to read more.

Capturing a Reader's Attention

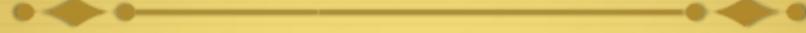


Copy the following definition into your WN:

Hook: a well written introduction begins with a few lines that grab the reader's attention and pulls the reader into a piece of writing, also known as a lead.



Capturing a Reader's Attention



Various Types of Hooks:

- **Familiar phrases**
- **Rhetorical Question**
- **Startling Statement**
- **Reflection**
- **Flashback**
- **Dialogue**
- **Humor**
- **Onomatopoeia**
- **Vivid Description (Snapshot)**
- **Tension or Suspense**
- **Quotation - Words from a well-known person, song or poem**
- **Action**
- **Begin at the end**
- **Establishing common ground**

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Example of beginning with a **question**:

What was the best part of being in kindergarten? Snack time or naptime? Not for me. For me it was recess.

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Example of beginning with **reflection**:

When I reflect on the many teachers I have encountered over the years, one characteristic stands out above all others. It is the yardstick by which I measure how fondly I remember a teacher and the degree to which he impacted me personally. It is the hallmark of a great teacher—what sets him apart from the rest. It is how much he seems to care.

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Example of beginning with *dialogue*:

“Alex, let me borrow a pencil,” said the kid from across the room. This kid was no ordinary person to me; he was Spencer Daniel, my best friend. He was dark skinned with black hair and brown eyes, which was the exact opposite of my blonde hair, blue eyes, and pale skin. But one thing was the same between me and Spencer—our attitudes.

“No dude, get your own,” I told him as I sat down in my assigned seat, specifically placed far away from Spencer.

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Example of beginning with **onomatopoeia**:

Ba-boom, ba-boom, ba-boom. My heart raced. For years, I had trained for this moment. Click. Click. Click. The dark keys surrendered beneath my fingertips. Annoyance flickered in my brown eyes, staring intently at the computer screen.

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Example of beginning with **description**:

Mr. Hixon limps into the classroom, alternating between his leg and the one he received along with a purple heart in Vietnam. He wiggles his nose in attempt to slide his spectacles upward, then stands up straight and folds his arms in front of his chest. He looks like a drill sergeant clad in Wranglers and a plaid button-down shirt.

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Example of beginning with **tension**:

Everything sucked about being ten in the seventh grade. Sure, at five foot four, I had the height. But starting junior high three months after my tenth birthday left me a little less curvy than the rest of the girls.

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Practice writing “hooks”:
In your WN, write a “hook”
for the prompt below and label
which type of “hook” it is.

In Moore Public Schools,
iPods are forbidden. Write a
persuasive essay or letter to
the school board explaining
why students should be
allowed to bring iPods to
school.

Types of Hooks:

- *Catchy words*
- *Familiar phrases*
- *Rhetorical Question*
- *Startling Statement*
- *Reflection*
- *Humor*
- *Flashback*
- *Dialogue*
- *Onomatopoeia*
- *Vivid Description (Snapshot)*
- *Tension or Suspense*
- *Quotation - Words from a well-known person, song or poem*
- *Action*
- *Begin at the end*

Capturing a Reader's Attention



Practice writing “hooks”:
In your WN, **write a “hook”**
for your argumentative essay
about dress codes or video
games. Label which type of
“hook” it is.

Types of Hooks:

- *Catchy words*
- *Familiar phrases*
- *Rhetorical Question*
- *Startling Statement*
- *Reflection*
- *Flashback*
- *Dialogue*
- *Onomatopoeia*
- *Vivid Description (Snapshot)*
- *Tension*
- *Quotation - Words from a well-known person, song or poem*
- *Action*
- *Begin at the end*

How is Writing Like a Goodnight Kiss?

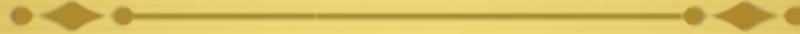
At the end of the day, a six year old wants a goodnight kiss. At the end of a date, a 16 year old wants a goodnight kiss. At the end of an essay, a reader wants a “goodnight kiss.”

A **“goodnight kiss”** brings closure and a sense of satisfaction to a child as Mommy tucks her into bed, an adolescent as her boyfriend walks her to the front door, and a reader as she arrives at the end of a piece of writing.





Kiss Your Reader Goodnight



Copy the following definition into your WN:

Goodnight Kiss: a well written conclusion that leaves a reader feeling satisfied, bringing a piece of writing full circle, often linking back to the introduction somehow



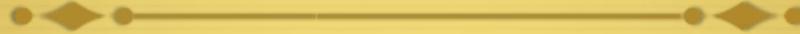
Kiss Your Reader Goodnight

Types of Conclusions

- **Circular:** Revisits some of the details from the beginning of the piece.
- **Summary:** Repeats the main points of the piece.
- **Reflection:** Reflects on information presented, an argument offered, or what has happened. This might begin with a question.
- **Emotional:** Can be happy, sad, mysterious, humorous, surprising, etc.
- **Thoughtful:** Offers the reader something to think about.
- **Call to action:** Using an Action Verb, give your readers something to do.
- **Prediction:** Consider what will happen as a result of your main argument (thesis statement), whether it's followed or not.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight

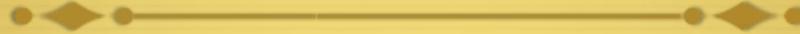


Example a **circular** conclusion:

The whole time I was in the hospital all I could think about was leaving my house and my mom saying, “Put your shoes on before you go.” Maybe if I had listened, I would have ten toes instead of nine.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight



Example of ending with a **summary:**

The only thing is I'm not the confident blonde, the poised Asian girl, the creative emo, or the laid back Converse girl. I'm the nerd. I wear ill-fitted jeans and stained t-shirts. I eat lunch in the cafeteria and study for fun. But you know what? I'm okay with that because being a nerd means being myself. And that's what I want – to simply be me.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight

Example of ending with a reflection:

It's funny how something as simple as a car can bring people together. My sisters and I realized that we wouldn't have each other forever. Nicole's car was the perfect spot to forget whatever stress we had and catch up. It brought us together. Siblings often take each other for granted, but before you know it, one by one, we're off to college. We only get one childhood, one chance to make it as fun as possible. If my sister hadn't gotten her car, we wouldn't have come together the way we did. We wouldn't have made these wonderful memories.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight

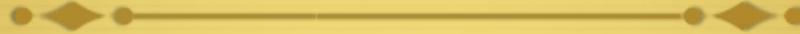


Example of ending with an emotional conclusion:

- In the end, Lebron, you made the wrong move. You should have stayed in Cleveland where you belong. Cleveland will miss you, if they haven't burned your #23 jersey by now.
- Snowboarding has become the love of my life. It is what I want to do when I grow up. It has created a love inside me that I want to share with everyone.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight



Example of ending with a thoughtful conclusion:

- The soldier had gone on his way, but the gnawing feeling in my gut remains. The feelings that stars are nothing but scars, bullet holes in the sky from humanity's drive for security and power, but what is achieved by victory and war? A guaranteed place in the next one. One thing I know for certain is that life is too valuable to be spent kneeling on the cinder of American-made missiles in an interchangeable foreign country while someone gets rich off hell on earth. And at the same time, someone else dies.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight



Example of ending with a call to action:

✦ Many say that the world is coming to an end because mankind is becoming more and more problematic each year. I say that whoever believes that needs to go and ring a bell for the salvation army.



Kiss Your Reader Goodnight

Example of ending with a **prediction**:

I'm not saying I'm Martin Luther King, but I do have a dream: to spread disability awareness. If people in our society are not aware of how we in the disabled community feel and what we care about, then our society will never live up to the words of our founding fathers: "All men are created equal."